



# Hon. Robert T. Matsui

## Member of Congress

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*Robert T. Matsui*

Serving California's 5th District

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### REP. MATSUI JOINS SAC CITY SCHOOLS TO ANNOUNCE \$9 MILLION FEDERAL SAFE SCHOOLS GRANT

SACRAMENTO, CA – Congressman Robert T. Matsui (D-CA) joined officials from Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD), Hiram Johnson High School, and Will C. Wood Middle School to announce federal funding for a comprehensive and tightly woven net of support services for the 13,458 students in the Hiram Johnson High School attendance area.

The \$9 million, three-year grant, entitled the "Village Project," will provide an array of services to prevent problems such as youth violence, drug and alcohol abuse, mental and physical health problems and academic failure. Funding will also be used to provide early childhood development services. Sac City received one of the 46 grants awarded across the nation by the U.S. departments of Education, Justice and Health and Human Services.

A U.S. Department of Education news release announcing the national grants stated applications were judged for their "strength, comprehensiveness, viability and potential for success." Rep. Matsui added, "This grant is the result of hard work, careful planning and a thoughtful approach to providing students with a safer learning environment."

The Village Project will serve to help law enforcement, mental health and other agencies boost assistance to challenged students and their families, form stronger more collaborative partnerships among local agencies and do a better job of helping families by closing gaps in services. The three-year grant is intended to create a successful model in the Hiram Johnson feeder pattern that can be replicated at a district-wide level. Feeder patterns are all schools—elementary, middle and high schools—within the same attendance areas that "feed" into one another as children advance. Campuses involved in the Village Project include Hiram Johnson, Albert Einstein and Will C. Wood middle schools and 14 feeder elementary schools. These schools face many challenges, including high rates of student suspension, drug abuse, and poverty.

Rep. Matsui praised the district for its approach towards meeting students' needs. "The grant represents Sac City's ongoing commitment to innovative education solutions and a wide-angle view of the challenges facing our youth," he said.

For additional information, please contact SCUSD at (916) 643-9040.

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